



Proposed Amendment;
Attachment to Interview Summary

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Patent Technology Centers

Facsimile Transmission

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Fax Notes:

Mr. Treanor,
The following is a proposed amendment to put 10/581,684 in condition for allowance. Attached are: a marked-up version of the claims, a clean version of the claims, and comments discussing the rationale for the proposed changes. If these changes are acceptable, I will enter them in an examiner's amendment.
Sincerely,
Michael J Feely (Primary Examiner; AU 1796)

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Marked-up version

1 (Currently Amended): A cured epoxy resin comprising a deagglomerated barium sulphate dispersed within said cured epoxy resin, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising ~~having~~ primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles ~~have~~ ~~having~~ an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, ~~the barium sulphate comprising a crystallization inhibitor and a dispersant;~~

wherein the ~~barium sulphate comprises a dispersant that~~ sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and ~~that~~ comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

2 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight of the cured epoxy resin.

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3 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the primary ~~particle size of the~~ barium sulphate particles have an average primary particle size of is in the range from 0.01 μm to less than 0.5 μm .

4-6 (Previously Presented)

7 (Cancelled)

8-11 (Previously Presented)

12 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising ~~an epoxy resin~~ a precursor of a cured epoxy resin and a deagglomerated barium sulphate, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising having primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have ~~having~~ an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, ~~and comprising a crystallization inhibitor and a dispersant;~~

wherein the ~~barium sulphate~~ comprises a dispersant that sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and ~~that~~ comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

13 (Currently Amended): The composition according to Claim 12, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 % to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

14 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising uncured epoxy resin and a deagglomerated barium sulphate, ~~said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising having~~ primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; ~~wherein the primary particles have having an average primary particle size of~~ $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, ~~the barium sulphate comprising a crystallization inhibitor and a dispersant,~~

wherein the ~~barium sulphate~~ comprises a dispersant that sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and ~~that~~ comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

15 (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 14, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1% to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

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16 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a the cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, said process comprising: dispersing wherein the agglomerated barium sulphate having a particle size $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and comprising said crystallization inhibitor and a said dispersant, is deagglomerated in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to curing;[[,]] and curing the epoxy resin ~~then the cured epoxy resin is produced.~~

17 (Cancelled)

18 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~deagglomerated~~ primary barium sulphate particles have ~~has~~ an average primary particle size of $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$.

19 (Previously Presented)

20 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, obtained by dispersing the deagglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to ~~its~~ curing.

21 (Cancelled)

22-23 (Previously Presented)

Clean version

1 (Currently Amended): A cured epoxy resin comprising a deagglomerated barium sulphate dispersed within said cured epoxy resin, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have an average primary particle size of < 0.5 μm ,

wherein the dispersant sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

2 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight of the cured epoxy resin.

3 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the primary barium sulphate particles have an average primary particle size of from 0.01 μm to less than 0.5 μm .

4-6 (Previously Presented)

7 (Cancelled)

8-11 (Previously Presented)

12 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising a precursor of a cured epoxy resin and a deagglomerated barium sulphate, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$,

wherein the dispersant sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

13 (Currently Amended): The composition according to Claim 12, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

14 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising uncured epoxy resin and a deagglomerated barium sulphate, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$,

wherein the dispersant sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

15 (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 14, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

16 (Currently Amended): A process for producing the cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, said process comprising: dispersing the agglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to curing; and curing the epoxy resin.

17 (Cancelled)

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18 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the primary barium sulphate particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$.

19 (Previously Presented)

20 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, obtained by dispersing the deagglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to curing.

21 (Cancelled)

22-23 (Previously Presented)

Comments

- In claims 1, 12, and 14, the language regarding the *agglomerated barium sulfate* has been clarified with the following language: “said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant”.
- In claims 1, 12, and 14, the dispersant limitations have been changed to clarify the relationship between the dispersant and *the primary and secondary barium sulfate particles*.
- In claim 1, the spatial relationship between the cured epoxy resin and the deagglomerated barium sulfate has been clarified with the following language: “a deagglomerated barium sulfate dispersed within said cured epoxy resin”.
- Claim 2 has been amended to feature the weight basis: *of the cured epoxy resin*. The amount is also now drawn to the *deagglomerated* barium sulphate.
- In claim 3, the particle size range has been changed to fall within the range of claim 1: *from 0.01 μm to less than 0.5 μm* .
- In claim 12, the “epoxy resin precursor” has been replaced with: a precursor of a *cured epoxy resin – see page 8, lines 6-15 of the specification or paragraphs 0036-0037 of the prepublication*. A precursor “of an epoxy resin” is different from a precursor “of a *cured epoxy resin*”. It is clear from the specification that the precursor of the instant invention is one “of a *cured epoxy resin*”.
- In claims 13 and 15, the amount is now drawn to the *deagglomerated* barium sulphate.

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- Claim 16 has been changed to clarify the process. Specifically, it now comprises the steps of: dispersing the agglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to curing; and curing the epoxy resin – *see page 8, lines 6-15 of the specification or paragraphs 0036-0037 of the prepublication*. This new language is also consistent with the product-by-process language of claim 20.
- Claim 18 has been changed to specify the *primary* barium sulfate particles.
- In claim 20, the “precursor of the epoxy resin” has been replaced with: a precursor of the *cured* epoxy resin – *see page 8, lines 6-15 of the specification or paragraphs 0036-0037 of the prepublication*. A precursor “of an epoxy resin” is different from a precursor “of a *cured* epoxy resin”. It is clear from the specification that the precursor of the instant invention is one “of a *cured* epoxy resin”.